

REMARKS**Claim Status**

With this Amendment claims 4-7, 14-18 and 30-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 8-13 and 19-29 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to prosecuting claims of commensurate scope in continuing applications. Claim 4 is the sole pending independent claim. Claims 4-7 and 14-18 are amended herein without prejudice. Dependent claims 30-39 are newly presented.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Formal Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review of the claims. The claims have been amended herein. Some of these amendments direct the claims to alternative aspects of the invention. The claims are believed to comply with § 112. Nevertheless, the Examiner is invited to review the pending claims for § 112 compliance.

Art Based Rejections

Claim 4 stands rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,646,997 ("Barton"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The cited passages of Barton would append a digital signature to meta-data (see, e.g., Col. 7, line 1). In contrast, claim 4 recites changing auxiliary information based on original data, and embedding the changed auxiliary information in the original data, in

combination with the remaining features of the claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that claim 4 be allowed. (The remaining cited art is not understood to teach or suggest such a combination.)

Dependent Claims

The dependent claims recite many additional patentable combinations.

For example, claim 30 recites that the auxiliary information includes plural-bits, and wherein the changing comprising changing at least a plurality of the plural-bits.

Claim 31 recites that the auxiliary information includes a total number of bits, and the changing does not alter the total.

Claim 33 recites that the original data includes a photograph, with the changed auxiliary information being embedded within the photograph. The method of claim 4 then further includes printing the embedded photograph on an identification document.

Additional patentable combinations are recited in the remaining dependent claims.

Favorable and independent consideration is requested for each of the dependent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant intends to file an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned if the IDS is not matched with the application file when the Examiner picks up this Amendment for consideration.

Request for Personal Interview

Applicant requests a telephone interview to discuss the amended and newly presented claims in view of the cited art. Should the Examiner pick up this Amendment prior to the scheduling of an interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the phone number given below.

Conclusion

Early passage to issuance is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and remarks. (Other deficiencies of the art are not belabored herein. Applicant also questions the propriety of combining the references as suggested in the office action, along with the motivation for doing so.).

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-495-4575 if any issue remains.

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Respectfully submitted,

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